## Perceptions of Economic News Turn More Negative

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## Majority Now Hearing Mostly Bad News about Jobs Perceptions of Economic News Turn More Negative

The public's perceptions of economic news have taken a turn for the worse. And that could be bad news for Barack Obama, who held a lead over Mitt Romney in polling conducted mostly before last week's disappointing jobs report and stock market slide.

Currently $37 \%$ say they are hearing mostly bad news about the economy, up from $32 \%$ last month and the highest percentage expressing that view this year, according to a new survey conducted May 31-June 3 among 1,012 adults by the Pew Research Center for the People \& the Press.

Perhaps even more politically charged, the new poll finds the number of Americans saying
Views of Economic News Become More Negative


PEW RESEARCH CENTER May 31-June 3, 2012. they have been hearing mostly bad news about jobs has spiked, from $38 \%$ in March to $55 \%$ currently. The lone positive finding for the Obama campaign in the current survey is that markedly fewer report hearing mostly bad news about gasoline prices - $48 \%$ today, compared with $85 \%$ in March.

On balance, the public's views of economic news remain far more positive than they were last fall. But this marks the second year in a row when perceptions of economic news have grown more negative in the late spring.

The downturn in perceptions of economic news came as Barack Obama held a $49 \%$ to $42 \%$ lead over Mitt Romney in the presidential horserace. That survey, among 3,003 adults, including 2,338 registered voters, was conducted over the past several weeks (May 9-June 3).

It was largely completed before the release of a weaker-thanexpected federal jobs report on June 1 and recent declines in financial markets.

Past surveys have found that Obama's job approval, and his standing in the presidential race, has been somewhat better when perceptions of economic news are less negative. In March, Obama's job rating reached $50 \%$ (for the first time since Osama bin Laden's killing) and he held his widest lead to date over Romney (54\% to $42 \%$ ). That month, just $24 \%$ said they were hearing mostly bad news about the economy, the lowest percentage in more than a year.

Last November, $48 \%$ of the public said they were hearing mostly bad economic. At that point, 46\% approved of Obama's job performance. Obama and Romney were running essentially even in a hypothetical race; $49 \%$ of registered voters said they would vote for Obama, while $47 \%$ said they would vote for Romney.

## Obama Led Before Economy's June Sag





## Perceptions of Continuing Economic Uncertainty

Though the employment situation showed signs of improvement earlier in the year, recent reports indicate that job growth has slowed. Last week, the Labor Department reported that the unemployment rate had ticked up from $8.1 \%$ in April to 8.2\% in May and that job creation for the month had been much lower than expected.

A majority (55\%) now say that they are hearing



PEW RESEARCH CENTER May 31-June 3, 2012. in early December and $64 \%$ in November. This measure hit a peak last August ( $74 \%$ mostly bad news), amid increased concern about an economic slowdown.

Nearly half (47\%) say they are hearing mostly bad news about the financial markets. Again, that is up sharply from March (29\%), but about where it stood last November (50\%). Last August, about seven-in-ten (69\%) said they were hearing mostly bad news about the markets.

The public sees more positive news about gas prices, reflecting the reality that prices have dropped recently in most parts of the country. In March, as fuel prices were rising quickly, $85 \%$ said they were hearing mostly bad news about gas prices, $12 \%$ said they were hearing a mix of good and bad news and $2 \%$ said they were hearing mostly good news. Currently, 48\% say they are hearing mostly bad news, while about as many are either hearing mixed news (31\%) or mostly good news (19\%).

Hearing Mostly Bad News,
by Sector


PEW RESEARCH CENTER May 31-June 3, 2012.

Perceptions of news about real estate values and consumer prices have shown less recent volatility. Currently, $43 \%$ say they are hearing mostly bad news about real estate values while $36 \%$ say they are hearing mixed news about this; $14 \%$ say they are hearing mostly good news, the highest percentage since spring 2010.

Nearly half (46\%) say they are hearing mostly bad news about prices for food and consumer goods, down only slightly since March (50\%), but down more sharply since last August (62\%). Four-in-ten (40\%) say they are hearing a mix of good and bad news about prices, while $7 \%$ say they are hearing mostly good news.

## Partisan Differences in Views of Economic News

Currently, about half (52\%) of Republicans say recent news about the economy has been mostly bad, up from just 33\% in March. Democrats' views of economic news have changed little over this period: $23 \%$ say economic news is mostly bad, compared with $19 \%$ who did so in March. Among independents, $37 \%$ currently views economic news negatively, a 14-point increase since March.

Since March, the proportion of people with family incomes of $\$ 75,000$ or more who view economic news as mostly bad has doubled - from $19 \%$ then to $41 \%$ today. A third of those with incomes of $\$ 30,000$ to $\$ 75,000$ say recent economic news is mostly bad, up modestly from March (24\%). The change in negative perceptions has been about the same among those with incomes of less than \$30,000 ( $38 \%$ today, $28 \%$ in March).

Over the past three months, the percentage hearing mostly bad news about the job situation has risen across the political spectrum. Currently, $46 \%$ of Democrats say they are hearing mostly bad news about the job situation, compared with $29 \%$ in March. The percentage of Democrats hearing mostly good news about jobs has fallen by more than half - from $26 \%$ in March to $11 \%$ today.

Republicans and independents also express more negative views of the job situation. Today, $65 \%$ of Republicans say the news about jobs is mostly bad, up from $42 \%$ in March. Since then, there has been a 12-point increase in the share of independents hearing mostly bad news about the job situation ( $41 \%$ then, $53 \%$ today).

Negative Views of Economic News Up Sharply among Republicans

|  | Mar | May | Jun | Mar- <br> Jun |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| \% hearing mostly <br> bad news about <br> economy | Ma12 <br> $\mathbf{2 0 1 2}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 1 2}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 1 2}$ |  |
| change |  |  |  |  |

PEW RESEARCH CENTER May 31-June 3, 2012.

## More Hearing Mostly Bad News about Jobs

| News about job   <br> situation... Total Rep | Dem | Ind |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| June 2012 | $\%$ | $\%$ | $\%$ | $\%$ |
| Mostly bad | 55 | 65 | 46 | 53 |
| Mix of good and bad | 35 | 26 | 41 | 38 |
| Mostly good | 8 | 7 | 11 | 6 |
| Don't know | $\underline{2}$ | $\underline{3}$ | $\underline{1}$ | $\underline{2}$ |
|  | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

## March 2012

| Mostly bad | 38 | 42 | 29 | 41 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Mix of good and bad | 42 | 44 | 42 | 41 |
| Mostly good | 17 | 11 | 26 | 16 |
| Don't know | $\underline{3}$ | $\underline{3}$ | $\underline{2}$ | $\underline{2}$ |
|  | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

PEW RESEARCH CENTER May 31-June 3, 2012. Figures may not add to $100 \%$ because of rounding.

## PRESIDENTIAL TRIAL HEAT

Pew Research Center for the People and the Press, May 9-Jun 3, 2012
Q. 40 Now suppose the 2012 presidential election were being held today and you had to choose between Barack Obama, the Democrat, and Mitt Romney, the Republican, who would you vote for?/Q.40a As of today, who do you lean more to?

|  | $\frac{\text { Obama }}{\%}$ | $\frac{\text { Romney }}{\%}$ | Other/ DK/Ref \% | N |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| ALL VOTERS | 49 | 42 | 9 | 2388 |
| SEX |  |  |  |  |
| Men | 46 | 44 | 10 | 1052 |
| Women | 51 | 40 | 9 | 1336 |
| AGE |  |  |  |  |
| 18-49 | 51 | 40 | 9 | 818 |
| 50+ | 47 | 44 | 9 | 1520 |
| DETAILED AGE |  |  |  |  |
| 18-29 | 54 | 36 | 9 | 237 |
| 30-49 | 50 | 42 | 8 | 581 |
| 50-64 | 51 | 41 | 8 | 752 |
| 65+ | 42 | 49 | 9 | 768 |
| SEX BY AGE |  |  |  |  |
| Men 18-49 | 48 | 42 | 11 | 428 |
| Men 50+ | 45 | 48 | 8 | 607 |
| Women 18-49 | 54 | 39 | 7 | 390 |
| Women 50+ | 49 | 41 | 10 | 913 |
| RACE |  |  |  |  |
| White, non-Hispanic | 40 | 52 | 8 | 1859 |
| Black, non-Hispanic | 92 | 3 | 5 | 232 |
| Hispanic | 67 | 21 | 12 | 135 |
| EDUCATION |  |  |  |  |
| College grad+ | 52 | 41 | 7 | 1012 |
| Some college | 45 | 46 | 9 | 662 |
| High school or less | 50 | 39 | 11 | 705 |
| FAMILY INCOME |  |  |  |  |
| \$75,000+ | 47 | 47 | 6 | 744 |
| \$30,000-\$74,999 | 48 | 45 | 7 | 747 |
| Less than \$30,000 | 59 | 31 | 10 | 545 |
| DETAILED INCOME |  |  |  |  |
| \$100,000+ | 47 | 48 | 5 | 438 |
| \$75,000-\$99,000 | 47 | 45 | 8 | 306 |
| \$50,000-\$74,990 | 46 | 47 | 7 | 364 |
| \$30,000-\$49,999 | 51 | 43 | 6 | 383 |
| Less than \$30,000 | 59 | 31 | 10 | 545 |
| REGION |  |  |  |  |
| Northeast | 52 | 36 | 12 | 416 |
| Midwest | 51 | 40 | 9 | 613 |
| South | 45 | 47 | 8 | 878 |
| West | 50 | 42 | 8 | 481 |

## PRESIDENTIAL TRIAL HEAT (CONT.)

Pew Research Center for the People and the Press, May 9-Jun 3, 2012
Q. 40 Now suppose the 2012 presidential election were being held today and you had to choose between Barack Obama, the Democrat, and Mitt Romney, the Republican, who would you vote for?/Q.40a As of today, who do you lean more to?

|  | $\frac{\text { Obama }}{\%}$ | $\frac{\text { Romney }}{\%}$ | Other/ <br> DK/Ref <br> \% | N |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| PARTY ID |  |  |  |  |
| Republican | 9 | 87 | 4 | 740 |
| Democrat | 89 | 8 | 3 | 822 |
| Independent | 43 | 43 | 13 | 722 |
| PARTY WITH LEANERS |  |  |  |  |
| Rep/Lean Rep | 9 | 86 | 5 | 1056 |
| Dem/Lean Dem | 89 | 8 | 4 | 1100 |
| IDEOLOGY |  |  |  |  |
| Conservative | 25 | 67 | 7 | 965 |
| Moderate | 57 | 36 | 7 | 836 |
| Liberal | 83 | 11 | 6 | 472 |
| PARTY AND IDEOLOGY |  |  |  |  |
| Conservative Republican | 5 | 92 | 3 | 521 |
| Mod/Lib Republican | 16 | 77 | 7 | 204 |
| Mod/Cons Democrat | 87 | 10 | 3 | 462 |
| Liberal Democrat | 94 | 4 | 2 | 332 |
| TEA PARTY (REP/LEAN REP) |  |  |  |  |
| Agree | 4 | 93 | 3 | 447 |
| Disagree/No opinion | 12 | 81 | 6 | 581 |
| RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE |  |  |  |  |
| Total Protestants | 43 | 49 | 9 | 1286 |
| White NH evang. Prot. | 19 | 71 | 10 | 517 |
| White NH mainline Prot. | 41 | 52 | 8 | 478 |
| Black Prot. | 92 | 2 | 5 | 186 |
| Total Catholic | 48 | 41 | 10 | 519 |
| White NH Cath. | 41 | 50 | 9 | 417 |
| Unaffiliated | 66 | 26 | 8 | 365 |
| ATTEND RELIGIOUS SERVICES |  |  |  |  |
| Weekly or more | 40 | 51 | 10 | 1069 |
| Less than weekly | 56 | 36 | 8 | 1283 |
| RELIGION BY ATTENDANCE |  |  |  |  |
| White NH evang. Prot. |  |  |  |  |
| Weekly or more | 14 | 75 | 11 | 364 |
| Less than weekly | 30 | 62 | 8 | 150 |
| White NH mainline Prot. |  |  |  |  |
| Weekly or more | 39 | 52 | 9 | 162 |
| Less than weekly | 41 | 52 | 7 | 311 |
| White NH Cath. |  |  |  |  |
| Weekly or more | 34 | 55 | 11 | 220 |
| Less than weekly | 47 | 44 | 9 | 195 |

## PRESIDENTIAL TRIAL HEAT-AMONG WHITES

Pew Research Center for the People and the Press, May 9-Jun 3, 2012
Q. 40 Now suppose the 2012 presidential election were being held today and you had to choose between Barack Obama, the Democrat, and Mitt Romney, the Republican, who would you vote for?/Q.40a As of today, who do you lean more to?

|  | $\frac{\text { Obama }}{\%}$ | $\frac{\text { Romney }}{\%}$ | Other/ DK/Ref \% | N |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| ALL WHITE NON-HISP VOTERS | 40 | 52 | 8 | 1859 |
| SEX |  |  |  |  |
| Men | 35 | 56 | 9 | 795 |
| Women | 43 | 48 | 8 | 1064 |
| AGE |  |  |  |  |
| 18-49 | 41 | 51 | 8 | 577 |
| 50+ | 38 | 53 | 9 | 1253 |
| DETAILED AGE |  |  |  |  |
| 18-29 | 43 | 48 | 9 | 142 |
| 30-49 | 41 | 52 | 7 | 435 |
| 50-64 | 40 | 51 | 8 | 589 |
| 65+ | 35 | 55 | 10 | 664 |
| SEX BY AGE |  |  |  |  |
| Men 18-49 | 35 | 55 | 10 | 289 |
| Men 50+ | 35 | 57 | 7 | 498 |
| Women 18-49 | 47 | 48 | 5 | 288 |
| Women 50+ | 40 | 49 | 10 | 755 |
| EDUCATION |  |  |  |  |
| College grad+ | 48 | 47 | 5 | 837 |
| Some college | 34 | 57 | 9 | 513 |
| High school or less | 35 | 53 | 12 | 508 |
| FAMILY INCOME |  |  |  |  |
| \$75,000+ | 42 | 52 | 6 | 629 |
| \$30,000-\$74,999 | 39 | 54 | 6 | 593 |
| Less than \$30,000 | 42 | 46 | 11 | 362 |
| DETAILED INCOME |  |  |  |  |
| \$100,000+ | 43 | 53 | 4 | 379 |
| \$75,000-\$99,000 | 40 | 52 | 8 | 250 |
| \$50,000-\$74,990 | 40 | 53 | 7 | 299 |
| \$30,000-\$49,999 | 39 | 56 | 6 | 294 |
| Less than \$30,000 | 42 | 46 | 11 | 362 |
| REGION |  |  |  |  |
| Northeast | 46 | 44 | 10 | 334 |
| Midwest | 44 | 47 | 9 | 517 |
| South | 29 | 63 | 8 | 630 |
| West | 46 | 47 | 6 | 378 |
| PARTY ID |  |  |  |  |
| Republican | 6 | 91 | 3 | 671 |
| Democrat | 87 | 10 | 3 | 535 |
| Independent | 37 | 50 | 13 | 582 |
| PARTY WITH LEANERS |  |  |  |  |
| Rep/Lean Rep | 6 | 90 | 4 | 950 |
| Dem/Lean Dem | 87 | 10 | 4 | 738 |
| IDEOLOGY |  |  |  |  |
| Conservative | 12 | 81 | 7 | 782 |
| Moderate | 49 | 43 | 8 | 651 |
| Liberal | 82 | 14 | 4 | 363 |
| PARTY AND IDEOLOGY |  |  |  |  |
| Conservative Republican | 3 | 95 | 2 | 483 |
| Mod/Lib Republican | 12 | 82 | 6 | 176 |
| Mod/Cons Democrat | 81 | 16 | 3 | 265 |
| Liberal Democrat | 94 | 4 | 2 | 258 |

PRESIDENTIAL TRIAL HEAT BY GENDER
Pew Research Center for the People and the Press, May 9-Jun 3, 2012
Q. 40 Now suppose the 2012 presidential election were being held today and you had to choose between Barack Obama, the Democrat, and Mitt Romney, the Republican, who would you vote for?/Q.40a As of today, who do you lean more to?

|  | ----------AMONG MEN---------- |  |  |  | ---------AMONG WOMEN--------- |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | AMONG | Other/ |  |  | MONG | Other/ |  |
|  | Obama <br> \% | Romney | $\frac{\mathrm{DK} / \text { Ref }}{\%}$ | N | Obama <br> \% | Romney | $\frac{\mathrm{DK} / \text { Ref }}{\%}$ | N |
| ALL VOTERS | 46 | 44 | 10 | 1052 | 51 | 40 | 9 | 1336 |
| AGE |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 18-49 | 48 | 42 | 11 | 428 | 54 | 39 | 7 | 390 |
| 50+ | 45 | 48 | 8 | 607 | 49 | 41 | 10 | 913 |
| DETAILED AGE |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 18-29 | 50 | 40 | 10 | 124 | 58 | 32 | 9 | 113 |
| 30-49 | 47 | 42 | 11 | 304 | 53 | 42 | 5 | 277 |
| 50-64 | 50 | 43 | 7 | 316 | 51 | 39 | 10 | 436 |
| 65+ | 37 | 54 | 9 | 291 | 46 | 45 | 9 | 477 |
| RACE |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| White, non-Hispanic | 35 | 56 | 9 | 795 | 43 | 48 | 8 | 1064 |
| Black, non-Hispanic | 92 | 4 | 4 | 97 | 91 | 2 | 6 | 135 |
| Hispanic | - | - | - | 71 | - | - | - | 64 |
| EDUCATION |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| College grad+ | 44 | 48 | 8 | 483 | 59 | 36 | 5 | 529 |
| Some college | 43 | 47 | 10 | 278 | 46 | 45 | 9 | 384 |
| High school or less | 51 | 39 | 10 | 285 | 49 | 39 | 12 | 420 |
| FAMILY INCOME |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| \$75,000+ | 39 | 53 | 8 | 400 | 56 | 39 | 4 | 344 |
| \$30,000-\$74,999 | 50 | 44 | 5 | 323 | 47 | 46 | 7 | 424 |
| Less than \$30,000 | 59 | 30 | 11 | 199 | 59 | 32 | 9 | 346 |
| PARTY ID |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Republican | 9 | 87 | 4 | 322 | 8 | 87 | 4 | 418 |
| Democrat | 88 | 7 | 5 | 300 | 90 | 8 | 2 | 522 |
| Independent | 43 | 44 | 13 | 387 | 44 | 42 | 14 | 335 |
| PARTY WITH LEANERS |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Rep/Lean Rep | 9 | 86 | 5 | 506 | 9 | 86 | 5 | 550 |
| Dem/Lean Dem | 88 | 7 | 5 | 434 | 89 | 8 | 3 | 666 |
| IDEOLOGY |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Conservative | 24 | 69 | 7 | 446 | 26 | 66 | 8 | 519 |
| Moderate | 56 | 37 | 7 | 387 | 58 | 35 | 8 | 449 |
| Liberal | 81 | 9 | 10 | 171 | 85 | 12 | 3 | 301 |
| RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total Protestants | 39 | 53 | 8 | 524 | 46 | 46 | 9 | 762 |
| White NH evang. Prot. | 15 | 77 | 9 | 194 | 22 | 67 | 11 | 323 |
| White NH mainline Prot. | 33 | 59 | 8 | 205 | 47 | 46 | 7 | 273 |
| Total Catholic | 47 | 44 | 9 | 233 | 50 | 39 | 11 | 286 |
| White NH Cath. | 38 | 54 | 8 | 184 | 43 | 45 | 11 | 233 |
| Unaffiliated | 60 | 29 | 11 | 186 | 72 | 22 | 6 | 179 |
| ATTEND RELIGIOUS SERVICES |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Weekly or more | 37 | 53 | 10 | 414 | 41 | 49 | 10 | 655 |
| Less than weekly | 51 | 40 | 9 | 621 | 60 | 33 | 7 | 662 |
| PARENT |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Parent | 42 | 48 | 10 | 263 | 55 | 40 | 5 | 299 |
| Not a parent | 48 | 43 | 9 | 784 | 50 | 40 | 10 | 1030 |
| MARITAL STATUS |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Married | 39 | 54 | 7 | 651 | 46 | 47 | 7 | 704 |
| Not married | 56 | 31 | 13 | 395 | 58 | 32 | 10 | 621 |

## About the Surveys

Results about economic news are based on telephone interviews conducted May 31-June 3, 2012, among a national sample of 1,012 adults 18 years of age or older living in the continental United States ( 603 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 409 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 191 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted by interviewers at Princeton Data Source under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International. A combination of landline and cell phone random digit dial samples were used; both samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English. Respondents in the landline sample were selected by randomly asking for the youngest adult male or female who is now at home. Interviews in the cell sample were conducted with the person who answered the phone, if that person was an adult 18 years of age or older.

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin and region to parameters from the March 2011 Census Bureau's Current Population Survey and population density to parameters from the Decennial Census. The sample is also weighted to match current patterns of telephone status based on extrapolations from the 2011 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landline and cell phones have a greater probability of being included in the combined sample and adjusts for household size within the landline sample. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting. The following table shows the sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the $95 \%$ level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

| Group | Sample Size | Plus or minus... |
| :--- | ---: | :--- |
| Total sample | 1,012 | 3.6 percentage points |
|  |  |  |
| Republicans | 274 | 6.9 percentage points |
| Democrats | 318 | 6.4 percentage points |
| Independents | 349 | 6.1 percentage points |

Results about voting preferences and politics are based on telephone interviews conducted May 9-June 3, 2012, among a national sample of 3,003 adults, 18 years of age or older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia ( 1,801 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 1,202 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 591 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted by interviewers at Princeton Data Source under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International. A combination of landline and cell phone random digit dial samples were used; both samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. Respondents in the landline sample were selected by randomly asking for the youngest adult male or female who is now at home. Interviews in the cell sample were conducted with the person who answered the phone, if that person was an adult 18 years of age or older. For detailed information about our survey methodology, see http://people-press.org/methodology/

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin and nativity and region to parameters from the March 2011 Census Bureau's Current Population Survey and population density to parameters from the Decennial Census. The sample also is weighted to match current patterns of telephone status and relative usage of landline and cell phones (for those with both), based on extrapolations from the 2011 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landline and cell phones have a greater probability of being included in the combined sample and adjusts for household size within the landline sample. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into
account the effect of weighting. The following table shows the sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the $95 \%$ level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

| Group | Sample Size | Plus or minus... |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Total sample | 3,003 | 2.1 percentage points |
| Registered voters | 2,388 | 2.3 percentage points |

Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request.
In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

## PEW RESEARCH CENTER MAY 31-JUNE 3, 2012, OMNIBUS <br> FINAL TOPLINE <br> $\mathbf{N}=\mathbf{1 , 0 1 2}$

## PEW. 1 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

## NO QUESTION PEW. 2

ASK ALL:
Now thinking about recent economic news...
PEW. 3 Are you hearing mostly good news about the economy these days, mostly bad news about the economy or a mix of both good and bad news?

May 31-June 3, 2012
May 3-6, 2012
April 5-8, 2012
March 8-11, 2012
February 2-5, 2012
January 5-8, 2012
December 1-4, 2011
November 10-13, 2011
October 6-9, 2011
September 1-4, 2011
August 4-7, 2011
July 7-10, 2011
June 2-5, 2011
May 12-15, 2011
March 31-April 3, 2011
March 3-6, 2011
February 3-6, 2011
January 6-9, 2011
December 2-5, 2010
November 11-14, 2010
October 7-10, 2010
September 2-6, 2010
August 5-8, 2010
July 1-5, 2010
June 10-13, 2010
May 7-10, 2010
April 1-5, 2010
March 5-8, 2010
February 5-8, 2010
January 8-11, 2010
December 4-7, 2009
October 30-November 2, 2009
October 9-12, 2009

| Hearing mostly | Hearing mostly | A mix of good and | (VOL.) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| good news | bad news | bad news | DK/Ref |
| 3 | 37 | 57 | 3 |
| 6 | 32 | 60 | 2 |
| 11 | 30 | 57 | 2 |
| 11 | 24 | 62 | 2 |
| 8 | 30 | 59 | 3 |
| 9 | 30 | 60 | 1 |
| 6 | 36 | 56 | 1 |
| 3 | 48 | 48 | 1 |
| 1 | 58 | 39 | 2 |
| 2 | 61 | 35 | 1 |
| 1 | 67 | 30 | 2 |
| 3 | 49 | 46 | 2 |
| 2 | 46 | 50 | 1 |
| 6 | 35 | 56 | 2 |
| 5 | 33 | 60 | 2 |
| 7 | 38 | 53 | 2 |
| 6 | 29 | 64 | 1 |
| 7 | 24 | 68 | 1 |
| 4 | 39 | 55 | 1 |
| 5 | 41 | 53 | 2 |
| 6 | 39 | 53 | 2 |
| 3 | 41 | 54 | 2 |
| 4 | 38 | 55 | 3 |
| 3 | 42 | 54 | 1 |
| 4 | 30 | 65 | 1 |
| 4 | 29 | 66 | 1 |
| 6 | 28 | 66 | * |
| 4 | 30 | 66 | 1 |
| 4 | 35 | 61 | * |
| 5 | 29 | 65 | 1 |
| 7 | 33 | 59 | 1 |
| 5 | 31 | 62 | 2 |
| 6 | 27 | 66 | 1 |
| 5 | 27 | 68 | 1 |
| 11 | 29 | 59 | 1 |
| 3 | 41 | 56 | * |
| 4 | 37 | 59 | * |
| 4 | 31 | 64 | 1 |
| 4 | 39 | 56 | 1 |
| 2 | 51 | 46 | 1 |
| 2 | 60 | 37 | 1 |
| 2 | 67 | 30 | 1 |
| 1 | 80 | 19 | * |

## ASK ALL:

PEW. 4 Thinking about some specific aspects of the nation's economy... Please tell me if you are hearing mostly good news, mostly bad news or a mix of both good and bad news about each of the following. [READ AND RANDOMIZE]
a. The financial markets

May 31-June 3, 2012
March 8-11, 2012
November 10-13, 2011
August 4-7, 2011
June 2-5, 2011
May 12-15, 2011
March 31-April 3, 2011
March 3-6, 2011
February 3-6, 2011
December 2-5, 2010
September 2-6, 2010
July 1-5, 2010
May 7-10, 2010
April 1-5, 2010
March 5-8, 2010
January 8-11, 2010
October 30-November 2, 2009
August 7-10, 2009
June 12-15, 2009

| Hearing <br> mostly <br> good news | Hearing <br> mostly <br> bad news | A mix of <br> good and <br> bad news | (VOL.) <br> DK/Ref |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 5 | 47 | 42 | 6 |
| 15 | 29 | 48 | 8 |
| 4 | 50 | 41 | 5 |
| 2 | 69 | 25 | 4 |
| 5 | 40 | 45 | 9 |
| 11 | 33 | 45 | 11 |
| 13 | 30 | 51 | 6 |
| 12 | 33 | 47 | 8 |
| 17 | 31 | 46 | 6 |
| 13 | 38 | 44 | 4 |
| 9 | 43 | 40 | 8 |
| 4 | 46 | 44 | 6 |
| 6 | 41 | 49 | 3 |
| 15 | 30 | 50 | 6 |
| 11 | 26 | 59 | 4 |
| 16 | 32 | 47 | 6 |
| 12 | 33 | 48 | 7 |
| 20 | 31 | 43 | 6 |
| 9 | 43 | 45 | 3 |

b. Real estate values

May 31-June 3, 2012
March 8-11, 2012
November 10-13, 2011
August 4-7, 2011
June 2-5, 2011
May 12-15, 2011
March 31-April 3, 2011
March 3-6, 2011
February 3-6, 2011
December 2-5, 2010
September 2-6, 2010
July 1-5, 2010
May 7-10, 2010
April 1-5, 2010
March 5-8, 2010
January 8-11, 2010
October 30-November 2, 2009
August 7-10, 2009
June 12-15, 2009

| 14 | 43 | 36 | 6 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 9 | 39 | 42 | 10 |
| 6 | 55 | 32 | 7 |
| 4 | 63 | 27 | 6 |
| 7 | 56 | 28 | 9 |
| 9 | 45 | 35 | 11 |
| 6 | 48 | 38 | 8 |
| 8 | 46 | 36 | 10 |
| 8 | 51 | 34 | 7 |
| 6 | 62 | 28 | 4 |
| 6 | 57 | 32 | 5 |
| 9 | 49 | 35 | 7 |
| 12 | 41 | 42 | 5 |
| 12 | 44 | 38 | 6 |
| 8 | 45 | 42 | 5 |
| 11 | 43 | 40 | 5 |
| 13 | 43 | 37 | 6 |
| 11 | 40 | 41 | 7 |
| 11 | 45 | 40 | 3 |

c. Prices for food and consumer goods

| May 31-June 3, 2012 | 7 | 46 | 40 | 7 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| March 8-11, 2012 | 7 | 50 | 38 | 6 |
| November 10-13, 2011 | 5 | 52 | 36 | 7 |
| August 4-7, 2011 | 4 | 62 | 28 | 5 |
| June 2-5, 2011 | 5 | 58 | 30 | 6 |
| May 12-15, 2011 | 3 | 58 | 32 | 6 |
| March 31-April 3, 2011 | 3 | 59 | 34 | 4 |
| March 3-6, 2011 | 7 | 62 | 26 | 5 |
| February 3-6, 2011 | 7 | 49 | 39 | 5 |
| December 2-5, 2010 | 16 | 41 | 39 | 5 |
| September 2-6,2010 | 12 | 35 | 42 | 10 |

## PEW. 4 CONTINUED...

July 1-5, 2010
May 7-10, 2010
April 1-5, 2010
March 5-8, 2010
January 8-11, 2010
October 30-November 2, 2009
August 7-10, 2009
June 12-15, 2009

| Hearing <br> mostly <br> good news | Hearing <br> mostly <br> bad news | A mix of <br> good and <br> bad news | (VOL.) <br> DK/Ref |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 8 | 32 | 48 | 10 |
| 10 | 37 | 46 | 9 |
| 9 | 35 | 46 | 9 |
| 12 | 34 | 50 | 7 |
| 12 | 37 | 45 | 6 |
| 10 | 39 | 42 | 7 |
| 9 | 36 | 46 | 9 |
| 9 | 39 | 46 | 6 |

d. The job situation

May 31-June 3, 2012
March 8-11, 2012
December 1-4, 2011
November 10-13, 2011
August 4-7, 2011
June 2-5, 2011
May 12-15, 2011
March 31-April 3, 2011
March 3-6, 2011
February 3-6, 2011
December 2-5, 2010
September 2-6, 2010
July 1-5, 2010
May 7-10, 2010
April 1-5, 2010
March 5-8, 2010
January 8-11, 2010
October 30-November 2, 2009
August 7-10, 2009
June 12-15, 2009

| 8 | 55 | 35 | 2 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 17 | 38 | 42 | 3 |
| 10 | 51 | 37 | 2 |
| 5 | 64 | 28 | 2 |
| 4 | 74 | 21 | 2 |
| 5 | 58 | 34 | 3 |
| 9 | 51 | 37 | 3 |
| 12 | 43 | 42 | 2 |
| 10 | 50 | 37 | 3 |
| 9 | 52 | 37 | 2 |
| 6 | 66 | 27 | 1 |
| 5 | 65 | 28 | 2 |
| 5 | 64 | 30 | 1 |
| 9 | 52 | 38 | 2 |
| 9 | 56 | 33 | 2 |
| 5 | 59 | 35 | 1 |
| 6 | 61 | 31 | 2 |
| 3 | 68 | 27 | 2 |
| 6 | 61 | 32 | 1 |
| 1 | 71 | 27 | 1 |

e. Gas prices

May 31-June 3, 2012
March 8-11, 2012
November 10-13, 2011
August 4-7, 2011
June 2-5, 2011
May 12-15, 2011
March 31-April 3, 2011
March 3-6, 2011
February 3-6, 2011
12
2
85
47
66
68
84
88
90
77
36
8
$26 \quad 4$
23
2

February 3-6, 2011

## PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE \& THE PRESS BIENNIAL MEDIA CONSUMPTION SURVEY 2012 <br> FINAL TOPLINE <br> May 9-June 3, 2012 $\mathrm{N}=3,003$

## RANDOMIZE Q. 1 AND Q. 2

ASK ALL:
Q. 1 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President? [IF DK ENTER AS DK. IF DEPENDS PROBE ONCE WITH: Overall do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]

|  | Approve | Disapprove | (VOL.) DK/Ref |  | Approve | Disapprove | (VOL.) DK/Ref |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| May 9-Jun 3, 2012 | 46 | 42 | 11 | Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010 | 47 | 41 | 12 |
| Apr 4-15, 2012 | 46 | 45 | 9 | Jun 8-28, 2010 | 48 | 41 | 11 |
| Mar 7-11, 2012 | 50 | 41 | 9 | Jun 16-20, 2010 | 48 | 43 | 9 |
| Feb 8-12, 2012 | 47 | 43 | 10 | May 6-9, 2010 | 47 | 42 | 11 |
| Jan 11-16, 2012 | 44 | 48 | 8 | Apr 21-26, 2010 | 47 | 42 | 11 |
| Dec 7-11, 2011 | 46 | 43 | 11 | Apr 8-11, 2010 | 48 | 43 | 9 |
| Nov 9-14, 2011 | 46 | 46 | 8 | Mar 10-14, 2010 | 46 | 43 | 12 |
| Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011 | 43 | 48 | 9 | Feb 3-9, 2010 | 49 | 39 | 12 |
| Aug 17-21, 2011 | 43 | 49 | 7 | Jan 6-10, 2010 | 49 | 42 | 10 |
| Jul 20-24, 2011 | 44 | 48 | 8 | Dec 9-13, 2009 | 49 | 40 | 11 |
| Jun 15-19, 2011 | 46 | 45 | 8 | Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009 | 51 | 36 | 13 |
| May 25-30, 2011 | 52 | 39 | 10 | Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009 | 52 | 36 | 12 |
| May 5-8, 2011 | 50 | 39 | 11 | Sep 10-15, 2009 | 55 | 33 | 13 |
| May 2, 2011 | 56 | 38 | 6 | Aug 20-27, 2009 | 52 | 37 | 12 |
| Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011 | 47 | 45 | 8 | Aug 11-17, 2009 | 51 | 37 | 11 |
| Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011 | 51 | 39 | 10 | Jul 22-26, 2009 | 54 | 34 | 12 |
| Feb 2-7, 2011 | 49 | 42 | 9 | Jun 10-14, 2009 | 61 | 30 | 9 |
| Jan 5-9, 2011 | 46 | 44 | 10 | Apr 14-21, 2009 | 63 | 26 | 11 |
| Dec 1-5, 2010 | 45 | 43 | 13 | Mar 31-Apr 6, 2009 | 61 | 26 | 13 |
| Nov 4-7, 2010 | 44 | 44 | 12 | Mar 9-12, 2009 | 59 | 26 | 15 |
| Oct 13-18, 2010 | 46 | 45 | 9 | Feb 4-8, 2009 | 64 | 17 | 19 |
| Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010 | 47 | 44 | 9 |  |  |  |  |

## RANDOMIZE Q. 1 AND Q. 2 <br> ASK ALL:

Q. 2 All in all, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in this country today?

May 9-Jun 3, 2012
Apr 4-15, 2012
Feb 8-12, 2012
Jan 11-16, 2012
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011
Aug 17-21, 2011
Jul 20-24, 2011
Jun 15-19, 2011
May 5-8, 2011
May 2, 2011
Mar 8-14, 2011
Feb 2-7, 2011
Jan 5-9, 2011
Dec 1-5, 2010
Nov 4-7, 2010
Sep 23-26, 2010
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010
Jun 24-27, 2010
May 13-16, 2010

| Satis- <br> fied | Dis- <br> satisfied | (VOL.) <br> DK/Ref |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 64 | 7 |
| 24 | 69 | 6 |
| 28 | 66 | 6 |
| 21 | 75 | 4 |
| 17 | 78 | 5 |
| 17 | 79 | 4 |
| 17 | 79 | 4 |
| 23 | 73 | 4 |
| 30 | 62 | 8 |
| 32 | 60 | 8 |
| 22 | 73 | 5 |
| 26 | 68 | 5 |
| 23 | 71 | 6 |
| 21 | 72 | 7 |
| 23 | 69 | 8 |
| 30 | 63 | 7 |
| 25 | 71 | 5 |
| 27 | 64 | 9 |
| 28 | 64 | 7 |


|  | Satisfied | Dissatisfied | (VOL.) <br> DK/Ref |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Apr 21-26, 2010 | 29 | 66 | 5 |
| Apr 1-5, 2010 | 31 | 63 | 6 |
| Mar 11-21, 2010 | 25 | 69 | 5 |
| Mar 10-14, 2010 | 23 | 71 | 7 |
| Feb 3-9, 2010 | 23 | 71 | 6 |
| Jan 6-10, 2010 | 27 | 69 | 4 |
| Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009 | 25 | 67 | 7 |
| Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009 | 25 | 67 | 7 |
| Sep 10-15, $2009{ }^{1}$ | 30 | 64 | 7 |
| Aug 20-27, 2009 | 28 | 65 | 7 |
| Aug 11-17, 2009 | 28 | 65 | 7 |
| Jul 22-26, 2009 | 28 | 66 | 6 |
| Jun 10-14, 2009 | 30 | 64 | 5 |
| Apr 28-May 12, 2009 | 34 | 58 | 8 |
| Apr 14-21, 2009 | 23 | 70 | 7 |
| ${ }^{\text {I }} \mathrm{n}$ September 10-15, 2009 and other surveys noted with an asterisk, the question was worded "Overall, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in our country today?" |  |  |  |


| Q. 2 CONTINUED... |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Satisfied | Dissatisfied | (VOL.) <br> DK/Ref |
| Jan 7-11, 2009 | 20 | 73 | 7 |
| December, 2008 | 13 | 83 | 4 |
| Early October, 2008 | 11 | 86 | 3 |
| Mid-September, 2008 | 25 | 69 | 6 |
| August, 2008 | 21 | 74 | 5 |
| July, 2008 | 19 | 74 | 7 |
| June, 2008 | 19 | 76 | 5 |
| Late May, 2008 | 18 | 76 | 6 |
| March, 2008 | 22 | 72 | 6 |
| Early February, 2008 | 24 | 70 | 6 |
| Late December, 2007 | 27 | 66 | 7 |
| October, 2007 | 28 | 66 | 6 |
| February, 2007 | 30 | 61 | 9 |
| Mid-January, 2007 | 32 | 61 | 7 |
| Early January, 2007 | 30 | 63 | 7 |
| December, 2006 | 28 | 65 | 7 |
| Mid-November, 2006 | 28 | 64 | 8 |
| Early October, 2006 | 30 | 63 | 7 |
| July, 2006 | 30 | 65 | 5 |
| May, 2006* | 29 | 65 | 6 |
| March, 2006 | 32 | 63 | 5 |
| January, 2006 | 34 | 61 | 5 |
| Late November, 2005 | 34 | 59 | 7 |
| Early October, 2005 | 29 | 65 | 6 |
| July, 2005 | 35 | 58 | 7 |
| Late May, 2005* | 39 | 57 | 4 |
| February, 2005 | 38 | 56 | 6 |
| January, 2005 | 40 | 54 | 6 |
| December, 2004 | 39 | 54 | 7 |
| Mid-October, 2004 | 36 | 58 | 6 |
| July, 2004 | 38 | 55 | 7 |
| May, 2004 | 33 | 61 | 6 |
| Late February, 2004* | 39 | 55 | 6 |
| Early January, 2004 | 45 | 48 | 7 |
| December, 2003 | 44 | 47 | 9 |
| October, 2003 | 38 | 56 | 6 |
| August, 2003 | 40 | 53 | 7 |
| April 8, 2003 | 50 | 41 | 9 |
| January, 2003 | 44 | 50 | 6 |
| November, 2002 | 41 | 48 | 11 |
| September, 2002 | 41 | 55 | 4 |
| Late August, 2002 | 47 | 44 | 9 |


|  | Satis- <br> fied | Dis- <br> satisfied | (VOL.) <br> DK/Ref |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| May, 2002 | 44 | 44 | 12 |
| March, 2002 | 50 | 40 | 10 |
| Late September, 2001 | 57 | 34 | 9 |
| Early September, 2001 | 41 | 53 | 6 |
| June, 2001 | 43 | 52 | 5 |
| March, 2001 | 47 | 45 | 8 |
| February, 2001 | 46 | 43 | 11 |
| January, 2001 | 55 | 41 | 4 |
| October, 2000 (RVs) | 54 | 39 | 7 |
| September, 2000 | 51 | 41 | 8 |
| June, 2000 | 47 | 45 | 8 |
| April, 2000 | 48 | 43 | 9 |
| August, 1999 | 56 | 39 | 5 |
| January, 1999 | 53 | 41 | 6 |
| November, 1998 | 46 | 44 | 10 |
| Early September, 1998 | 54 | 42 | 4 |
| Late August, 1998 | 55 | 41 | 4 |
| Early August, 1998 | 50 | 44 | 6 |
| February, 1998 | 59 | 37 | 4 |
| January, 1998 | 46 | 50 | 4 |
| September, 1997 | 45 | 49 | 6 |
| August, 1997 | 49 | 46 | 5 |
| January, 1997 | 38 | 58 | 4 |
| July, 1996 | 29 | 67 | 4 |
| March, 1996 | 28 | 70 | 2 |
| October, 1995 | 23 | 73 | 4 |
| June, 1995 | 25 | 73 | 2 |
| April, 1995 | 23 | 74 | 3 |
| July, 1994 | 24 | 73 | 3 |
| March, 1994 | 24 | 71 | 5 |
| October, 1993 | 22 | 73 | 5 |
| September, 1993 | 20 | 75 | 5 |
| May, 1993 | 22 | 71 | 7 |
| January, 1993 | 39 | 50 | 11 |
| January, 1992 | 28 | 68 | 4 |
| November, 1991 | 34 | 61 | 5 |
| Gallup: Late Feb, 1991 | 66 | 31 | 3 |
| August, 1990 | 47 | 48 | 5 |
| May, 1990 | 41 | 54 | 5 |
| January, 1989 | 45 | 50 | 5 |
| September, 1988 (RVs) | 50 | 45 | 5 |
|  |  |  |  |

## Q. 3 THROUGH Q. 37 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

NO QUESTIONS 7, 8, 19, 27, 38, 39
ASK ALL:
THOUGHT
How much thought have you given to the coming presidential election . . . Quite a lot or only a little?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [ $\mathbf{N}=\mathbf{2 , 3 8 8}$ ]:
Quite (VOL.) Only a (VOL.) (VOL.)

## 2012 Election

May 9-Jun 3, 2012
Apr 4-15, 2012
Mar 7-11, 2012
a lot Some little None DK/Ref

| 61 | 2 | 33 | 3 | 1 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 64 | 2 | 30 | 4 | 1 |
| 66 | 2 | 30 | 1 | 1 |


| 2008 Election |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| November, 2008 | 81 | 3 | 13 | 2 | 1 |
| Late October, 2008 | 81 | 3 | 13 | 2 | 1 |
| Mid-October, 2008 | 81 | 3 | 13 | 3 | * |
| Early October, 2008 | 81 | 2 | 14 | 2 | 1 |
| Late September, 2008 | 80 | 3 | 14 | 2 | 1 |
| Mid-September, 2008 | 78 | 4 | 14 | 3 | 1 |
| August, 2008 | 74 | 6 | 17 | 2 | 1 |
| July, 2008 | 74 | 2 | 20 | 3 | 1 |
| June, 2008 | 72 | 2 | 23 | 2 | 1 |
| Late May, 2008 | 75 | 4 | 17 | 3 | 1 |
| April, 2008 | 77 | 7 | 13 | 2 | 1 |
| March, 2008 | 78 | 3 | 15 | 3 | 1 |
| Late February, 2008 | 74 | 3 | 19 | 2 | 2 |
| 2004 Election |  |  |  |  |  |
| November, 2004 | 82 | 3 | 12 | 2 | 1 |
| Mid-October, 2004 | 76 | 5 | 15 | 3 | 1 |
| Early October, 2004 | 74 | 4 | 19 | 2 | 1 |
| September, 2004 | 71 | 3 | 22 | 3 | 1 |
| August, 2004 | 69 | 2 | 26 | 2 | 1 |
| July, 2004 | 67 | 2 | 28 | 2 | 1 |
| June, 2004 | 58 | 3 | 36 | 2 | 1 |
| May, 2004 | 59 | 6 | 30 | 4 | 1 |
| Late March, 2004 | 60 | 4 | 31 | 4 | 1 |
| Mid-March, 2004 | 65 | 2 | 31 | 2 | * |
| 2000 Election |  |  |  |  |  |
| November, 2000 | 72 | 6 | 19 | 2 | 1 |
| Late October, 2000 | 66 | 6 | 24 | 4 | * |
| Mid-October, 2000 | 67 | 9 | 19 | 4 | 1 |
| Early October, 2000 | 60 | 8 | 27 | 4 | 1 |
| September, 2000 | 59 | 8 | 29 | 3 | 1 |
| July, 2000 | 46 | 6 | 45 | 3 | * |
| June, 2000 | 46 | 6 | 43 | 5 | * |
| May, 2000 | 48 | 4 | 42 | 5 | 1 |
| April, 2000 | 45 | 7 | 41 | 7 | * |
| 1996 Election |  |  |  |  |  |
| November, 1996 | 67 | 8 | 22 | 3 | * |
| October, 1996 | 65 | 7 | 26 | 1 | 1 |
| Late September, 1996 | 61 | 7 | 29 | 2 | 1 |
| Early September, 1996 | 56 | 3 | 36 | 4 | 1 |
| July, 1996 | 55 | 3 | 41 | 1 | * |
| June, 1996 | 50 | 5 | 41 | 3 | 1 |
| 1992 Election |  |  |  |  |  |
| Early October, 1992 | 77 | 5 | 16 | 1 | 1 |
| September, 1992 | 69 | 3 | 26 | 1 | 1 |
| August, 1992 | 72 | 4 | 23 | 1 | * |
| June, 1992 | 63 | 6 | 29 | 1 | 1 |
| 1988 Election |  |  |  |  |  |
| Gallup: November, 1988 | 73 | 8 | 17 | 2 | 0 |
| Gallup: October, 1988 | 69 | 9 | 20 | 2 | 0 |
| Gallup: August, 1988 | 61 | 10 | 27 | 2 | 0 |
| Gallup: September, 1988 | 57 | 18 | 23 | 2 | 0 |

ASK FORM A ONLY [N=1,568]:
REG Which of these statements best describes you? [READ IN ORDER] [INSTRUCTION: IF RESPONDENT VOLUNTEERS THAT THEY ARE IN NORTH DAKOTA AND DON'T HAVE TO REGISTER, PUNCH 1]

May 9-Jun 3
$\underline{2012}$
72 Are you ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN that you are registered to vote at your current address [OR]
5 Are you PROBABLY registered, but there is a chance your registration has lapsed [OR]
22 Are you NOT registered to vote at your current address
1 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
ASK FORM B ONLY [N=1,435]:
REGIST These days, many people are so busy they can't find time to register to vote, or move around so often they don't get a chance to re-register. Are you NOW registered to vote in your precinct or election district or haven't you been able to register so far?
[INSTRUCTION: IF RESPONDENT VOLUNTEERS THAT THEY ARE IN NORTH DAKOTA AND DON'T HAVE TO REGISTER, PUNCH 1 FOR REGIST AND REGICERT]
ASK IF RESPONDENT ANSWERED '1' YES IN REGIST:
REGICERT Are you absolutely certain that you are registered to vote, or is there a chance that your registration has lapsed because you moved or for some other reason?

| May 9-Jun 3 |  |
| :---: | :--- |
| $\frac{2012}{75}$ | Yes, registered |
| 72 | Absolutely certain |
| 3 | Chance registration has lapsed |
| 1 | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) |
| 24 | No, not registered |
| 1 | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) |

ASK ALL REGISTERED VOTERS (REGICERT=1) OR (REG=1):
Q. 40 Now, suppose the 2012 presidential election were being held TODAY. If you had to choose between [READ AND RANDOMIZE] who would you vote for?
ASK IF OTHER OR DK ( $Q .40=3,9)$ :
Q.40a As of TODAY, do you LEAN more to [READ IN SAME ORDER AS Q.40]?

ASK IF CHOSE MITT ROMNEY (Q.40=2 OR Q.40a=2):
Q.40b Would you say that your choice is more a vote FOR Mitt Romney or more a vote AGAINST Barack Obama?
ASK IF CHOSE BARACK OBAMA (Q.40=1 OR Q.40a=1):
Q.40c Would you say that your choice is more a vote FOR Barack Obama or more a vote AGAINST Mitt Romney?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [ $\mathbf{N}=2,388$ ]:

|  | Romney | ProRomney | AntiObama | DK | Obama | ProObama | AntiRomney | DK | Other/ <br> DK/Ref |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| May 9-Jun 3, 2012 | 42 | 16 | 24 | 2 | 49 | 35 | 11 | 3 | 9 |
| Apr 4-15, 2012 | 45 |  |  |  | 49 |  |  |  | 6 |
| Mar 7-11, 2012 | 42 |  |  |  | 54 |  |  |  | 4 |
| Feb 8-12, 2012 | 44 |  |  |  | 52 |  |  |  | 4 |
| Jan 11-16, 2012 | 45 |  |  |  | 50 |  |  |  | 6 |
| Nov 9-14, 2011 | 47 |  |  |  | 49 |  |  |  | 4 |
| Sep 22-Oct 4, $2011{ }^{2}$ | 48 | 15 | 33 | 1 | 48 | 33 | 11 | 3 | 4 |

## Q.40/Q.40a/Q.40b/Q.40c TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:

## BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS:

|  | McCain | Pro- <br> McCain | AntiObama | DK | Obama | ProObama | AntiMcCain |  | Nader ${ }^{3}$ | Barr | Other/ <br> DK/Ref |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| November, 2008 | 39 |  |  |  | 50 |  |  |  | 1 | I | 9 |
| Late October, 2008 | 36 |  |  |  | 52 |  |  |  | 3 | 1 | 8 |
| Mid-October, 2008 | 38 | 24 | 12 | 2 | 52 | 40 | 10 | 2 | n/a | n/a | 10 |
| Early October, 2008 | 40 |  |  |  | 50 |  |  |  | n/a | n/a | 10 |
| Late September, 2008 | 0842 |  |  |  | 49 |  |  |  | n/a | n/a | 9 |
| Mid-September, 2008 | 844 | 29 | 13 | 2 | 46 | 32 | 11 | 3 | n/a | n/a | 10 |
| August, 2008 | 43 | 25 | 16 | 2 | 46 | 33 | 12 | 1 | n/a | n/a | 11 |
| July, 2008 | 42 | 25 | 14 | 3 | 47 | 32 | 12 | 3 | n/a | n/a | 11 |
| June, 2008 | 40 |  |  |  | 48 |  |  |  | n/a | n/a | 12 |
| Late May, 2008 | 44 | 28 | 14 | 2 | 47 | 35 | 11 | 1 | n/a | n/a | 9 |
| April, 2008 | 44 |  |  |  | 50 |  |  |  | n/a | n/a | 6 |
| March, 2008 | 43 |  |  |  | 49 |  |  |  | n/a | n/a | 8 |
| Late February, 2008 | 43 | 27 | 14 | 2 | 50 | 38 | 10 | 2 | n/a | n/a | 7 |
|  | Bush | Pro- Bush | AntiKerry | DK | Kerry | Pro- <br> Kerry | Anti- <br> Bush | DK | Nader | Fourth party | Other/ <br> DK/Ref |
| November, 2004 | 45 | 34 | 9 | 2 | 46 | 20 | 23 | 3 | 1 | n/a | 8 |
| Mid-October, 2004 | 45 | 32 | 10 | 3 | 45 | 18 | 24 | 3 | 1 | n/a | 9 |
| Early October, 2004 | 48 | 36 | 10 | 2 | 41 | 15 | 23 | 3 | 2 | n/a | 9 |
| September, 2004 | 49 | 38 | 9 | 2 | 43 | 15 | 26 | 2 | 1 | n/a | 7 |
| August, 2004 | 45 | 34 | 8 | 3 | 47 | 20 | 24 | 3 | 2 | n/a | 6 |
| July, 2004 | 44 |  |  |  | 46 |  |  |  | 3 | n/a | 7 |
| June, 2004 | 46 |  |  |  | 42 |  |  |  | 6 | n/a | 6 |
| May, 2004 | 43 |  |  |  | 46 |  |  |  | 6 | n/a | 5 |
| Late March, 2004 | 44 |  |  |  | 43 |  |  |  | 6 | n/a | 7 |
| Mid-March, 2004 | 42 |  |  |  | 49 |  |  |  | 4 | n/a | 5 |
| Two-way trial heats: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| June, 2004 | 48 | 35 | 11 | 2 | 46 | 17 | 27 | 2 | n/a | n/a | 6 |
| May, 2004 | 45 | 33 | 10 | 2 | 50 | 15 | 32 | 3 | n/a | n/a | 5 |
| Late March, 2004 | 46 | 36 | 8 | 2 | 47 | 17 | 27 | 3 | n/a | n/a | 7 |
| Mid-March, 2004 | 43 | 34 | 7 | 2 | 52 | 21 | 29 | 2 | n/a | n/a | 5 |
| Late February, 2004 | 44 |  |  |  | 48 |  |  |  | n/a | n/a | 8 |
| Early February, 2004 | 47 | 39 | 6 | 2 | 47 | 15 | 30 | 2 | n/a | n/a | 6 |
| Early January, 2004 | 52 |  |  |  | 41 |  |  |  | n/a | n/a | 7 |
| October, 2003 | 50 |  |  |  | 42 |  |  |  | n/a | n/a | 8 |

Onther/

[^0]Q.40/Q.40a/Q.40b/Q.40c TRENDS FOR COMPARISON CONTINUED...

|  |  | Bush | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Pro- } \\ & \text { Bush } \end{aligned}$ | AntiGore | - DK | Gore | ProGore | Anti- <br> Bush | - DK | Nader Bu | chanan | Other/ <br> DK/Ref |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| March, 2000February, 2000 |  | 43 |  |  |  | 49 |  |  |  | n/a | n/a | 8 |
|  |  | 46 |  |  |  | 45 |  |  |  | n/a | n/a | 9 |
| December, 1999 |  | 55 |  |  |  | 40 |  |  |  | n/a | n/a | 5 |
| October, 1999 |  | 54 |  |  |  | 39 |  |  |  | n/a | n/a | 7 |
| September, 1999 |  | 54 |  |  |  | 39 |  |  |  | n/a | n/a | 7 |
| July, 1999 |  | 53 |  |  |  | 42 |  |  |  | n/a | n/a | 5 |
| March, 1999 |  | 54 |  |  |  | 41 |  |  |  | n/a | n/a | 5 |
| January, 1999 |  | 50 |  |  |  | 44 |  |  |  | n/a | n/a | 6 |
| September, 1998 |  | 53 |  |  |  | 40 |  |  |  | n/a | n/a | 7 |
| Dole |  | Pro- <br> Dole | Antiother | DK | Clinton | ProClinton | Antiother | DK | Perot | Pro- Anti Perot othe | $\underline{e r} \underline{D K}$ | Other/ DK/Ref |
| November, 1996 | 32 | 15 | 15 | 2 | 51 | 33 | 15 | 3 | 9 | 4 5 | - | - 8 |
| October, 1996 | 34 | 15 | 18 | 1 | 51 | 33 | 16 | 2 | 8 | 44 | * | 7 |
| Late September, 1996 | 35 |  |  |  | 51 |  |  |  | 7 |  |  | 7 |
| Early September, 1996 | 34 | 16 | 17 | 1 | 52 | 35 | 15 | 2 | 8 | 35 | 0 | 6 |
| July, 1996 | 34 |  |  |  | 44 |  |  |  | 16 |  |  | 6 |
| March, 1996 | 35 |  |  |  | 44 |  |  |  | 16 |  |  | 5 |
| September, 1995 | 36 |  |  |  | 42 |  |  |  | 19 |  |  | 3 |
| July, 1994 | 36 |  |  |  | 39 |  |  |  | 20 |  |  | 5 |
| Two-way trial heats: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| July, 1996 | 42 |  |  |  | 53 |  |  |  | n/a |  |  | 5 |
| June, 1996 | 40 |  |  |  | 55 |  |  |  | n/a |  |  | 5 |
| April, 1996 | 40 |  |  |  | 54 |  |  |  | n/a |  |  | 6 |
| March, 1996 | 41 | 15 | 25 | 1 | 53 | 30 | 20 |  | n/a |  |  | 6 |
| February, 1996 | 44 |  |  |  | 52 |  |  |  | n/a |  |  | 4 |
| January, 1996 | 41 |  |  |  | 53 |  |  |  | n/a |  |  | 6 |
| July, 1994 | 49 |  |  |  | 46 |  |  |  | n/a |  |  | 5 |
| Bush Sr |  | $\begin{gathered} \text { Pro- } \\ \text { Ir. } \\ \hline \text { Bush } \end{gathered}$ | Antiother | DK C | Clinton | ProClinton | Antiother | DK | Perot | Pro- Anti Perot othe | $\underline{e r} \underline{D K}$ | Other/ <br> DK/Ref |
| Late October, 1992 | 34 | 19 | 13 | 2 | 44 | 25 | 17 | 2 | 19 | 107 | 2 | 3 |
| Early October, 1992 | 35 | 19 | 13 | 3 | 48 | 23 | 22 | 3 | 8 | 35 | * | 9 |
| June, 1992 | 31 |  |  |  | 27 |  |  |  | 36 |  |  | 6 |
| Two-way trial heats: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| September, 1992 | 38 | 20 | 16 | 2 | 53 | 21 | 29 | 3 | n/a |  |  | 9 |
| August, 1992 | 37 | 20 | 16 | 1 | 57 | 27 | 28 | 2 | n/a |  |  | 6 |
| June, 1992 | 46 |  |  |  | 41 |  |  |  | n/a |  |  | 13 |
| May, 1992 | 46 |  |  |  | 43 |  |  |  | n/a |  |  | 11 |
| Late March, 1992 | 50 | 33 | 15 | 2 | 43 | 13 | 28 | 2 | n/a |  |  | 7 |
|  |  | Bush Sr. | ProBush | AntiDukakis DK |  | Du- <br> kakis | ProDukakis | Anti- <br> Bush | DK | Third party | Fourth party | Other/ <br> DK/Ref |
| October, 1988 |  | 50 | 31 | 16 | 3 | 42 | 23 | 15 | 4 | n/a | n/a | 8 |
| September, 198 | 988 | 50 | 31 | 15 | 4 | 44 | 21 | 19 | 4 | n/a | n/a | 6 |
| May, 1988 |  | 40 | 26 | 11 | 3 | 53 | 23 | 26 | 4 | n/a | n/a | 7 |

## Q. 41 THROUGH Q. 103 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

NO QUESTIONS 45-50, 53, 56-59, 65, 66, 79, 88, 89, 92-94
ASK ALL:
PARTY In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or independent?
ASK IF INDEP/NO PREF/OTHER/DK/REF (PARTY=3,4,5,9):
PARTYLN
As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

|  | Republican | Democrat | Independent | (VOL.) <br> No preference | (VOL.) Other party | (VOL.) <br> DK/Ref | Lean Rep | Lean Dem |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| May 9-Jun 3, 2012 | 24 | 32 | 36 | 4 | * | 4 | 13 | 14 |
| Apr 4-15, 2012 | 24 | 31 | 39 | 3 | * | 2 | 15 | 15 |
| Mar 7-11, 2012 | 24 | 34 | 36 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 16 | 17 |
| Feb 8-12, 2012 | 26 | 32 | 36 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 13 | 17 |
| Jan 11-16, 2012 | 22 | 31 | 42 | 3 | * | 2 | 17 | 16 |
| Jan 4-8, 2012 | 26 | 31 | 35 | 4 | * | 4 | 14 | 14 |
| Dec 7-11, 2011 | 23 | 33 | 38 | 3 | * | 2 | 12 | 17 |
| Nov 9-14, 2011 | 24 | 33 | 38 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 16 | 15 |
| Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011 | 23 | 33 | 38 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 18 | 16 |
| Aug 17-21, 2011 | 24 | 30 | 40 | 3 | * | 3 | 17 | 18 |
| Jul 20-24, 2011 | 24 | 32 | 38 | 4 | * | 2 | 16 | 14 |
| Jun 15-19, 2011 | 26 | 34 | 32 | 4 | * | 4 | 13 | 13 |
| May 25-30, 2011 | 24 | 33 | 38 | 3 | * | 2 | 15 | 17 |
| Yearly Totals |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2011 | 24.3 | 32.3 | 37.4 | 3.1 | . 4 | 2.5 | 15.7 | 15.6 |
| 2010 | 25.2 | 32.7 | 35.2 | 3.6 | . 4 | 2.8 | 14.5 | 14.1 |
| 2009 | 23.9 | 34.4 | 35.1 | 3.4 | . 4 | 2.8 | 13.1 | 15.7 |
| 2008 | 25.7 | 36.0 | 31.5 | 3.6 | . 3 | 3.0 | 10.6 | 15.2 |
| 2007 | 25.3 | 32.9 | 34.1 | 4.3 | . 4 | 2.9 | 10.9 | 17.0 |
| 2006 | 27.8 | 33.1 | 30.9 | 4.4 | . 3 | 3.4 | 10.5 | 15.1 |
| 2005 | 29.3 | 32.8 | 30.2 | 4.5 | . 3 | 2.8 | 10.3 | 14.9 |
| 2004 | 30.0 | 33.5 | 29.5 | 3.8 | . 4 | 3.0 | 11.7 | 13.4 |
| 2003 | 30.3 | 31.5 | 30.5 | 4.8 | . 5 | 2.5 | 12.0 | 12.6 |
| 2002 | 30.4 | 31.4 | 29.8 | 5.0 | . 7 | 2.7 | 12.4 | 11.6 |
| 2001 | 29.0 | 33.2 | 29.5 | 5.2 | . 6 | 2.6 | 11.9 | 11.6 |
| 2001 Post-Sept 11 | 30.9 | 31.8 | 27.9 | 5.2 | . 6 | 3.6 | 11.7 | 9.4 |
| 2001 Pre-Sept 11 | 27.3 | 34.4 | 30.9 | 5.1 | . 6 | 1.7 | 12.1 | 13.5 |
| 2000 | 28.0 | 33.4 | 29.1 | 5.5 | . 5 | 3.6 | 11.6 | 11.7 |
| 1999 | 26.6 | 33.5 | 33.7 | 3.9 | . 5 | 1.9 | 13.0 | 14.5 |
| 1998 | 27.9 | 33.7 | 31.1 | 4.6 | . 4 | 2.3 | 11.6 | 13.1 |
| 1997 | 28.0 | 33.4 | 32.0 | 4.0 | . 4 | 2.3 | 12.2 | 14.1 |
| 1996 | 28.9 | 33.9 | 31.8 | 3.0 | . 4 | 2.0 | 12.1 | 14.9 |
| 1995 | 31.6 | 30.0 | 33.7 | 2.4 | . 6 | 1.3 | 15.1 | 13.5 |
| 1994 | 30.1 | 31.5 | 33.5 | 1.3 | -- | 3.6 | 13.7 | 12.2 |
| 1993 | 27.4 | 33.6 | 34.2 | 4.4 | 1.5 | 2.9 | 11.5 | 14.9 |
| 1992 | 27.6 | 33.7 | 34.7 | 1.5 | 0 | 2.5 | 12.6 | 16.5 |
| 1991 | 30.9 | 31.4 | 33.2 | 0 | 1.4 | 3.0 | 14.7 | 10.8 |
| 1990 | 30.9 | 33.2 | 29.3 | 1.2 | 1.9 | 3.4 | 12.4 | 11.3 |
| 1989 | 33 | 33 | 34 | - | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| 1987 | 26 | 35 | 39 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |

TEAPARTY2 From what you know, do you agree or disagree with the Tea Party movement, or don't you have an opinion either way?

|  | Agree | Disagree | No opinion either way | (VOL.) <br> Haven't heard of | (VOL.) <br> Refused | Not heard of/ DK |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| May 9-Jun 3, 2012 | 16 | 25 | 54 | 2 | 3 | -- |
| Apr 4-15, 2012 | 20 | 26 | 50 | 3 | 2 | -- |
| Mar 7-11, 2012 | 19 | 29 | 48 | 2 | 2 | -- |
| Feb 8-12, 2012 | 18 | 25 | 53 | 2 | 2 | -- |
| Jan 11-16, 2012 | 20 | 24 | 52 | 2 | 2 | -- |
| Jan 4-8, 2012 | 18 | 25 | 52 | 2 | 3 | -- |
| Dec 7-11, 2011 | 19 | 27 | 50 | 2 | 2 | -- |
| Nov 9-14, 2011 | 20 | 27 | 51 | 1 | 1 | -- |
| Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011 | 19 | 27 | 51 | 2 | 1 | -- |
| Aug 17-21, 2011 | 20 | 27 | 50 | 1 | 1 | -- |
| Jul 20-24, 2011 | 20 | 24 | 53 | 1 | 1 | -- |
| Jun 15-19, 2011 | 20 | 26 | 50 | 3 | 2 | -- |
| May 25-30, 2011 | 18 | 23 | 54 | 2 | 2 | -- |
| Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011 | 22 | 29 | 47 | 1 | 1 | -- |
| Mar 8-14, 2011 | 19 | 25 | 54 | 1 | 1 | -- |
| Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011 | 20 | 25 | 52 | 2 | 2 | -- |
| Feb 2-7, $2011{ }^{4}$ | 22 | 22 | 53 | 2 | 2 | -- |
| Jan 5-9, 2011 | 24 | 22 | 50 | 2 | 1 | -- |
| Dec 1-5, 2010 | 22 | 26 | 49 | 2 | 2 | -- |
| Nov 4-7, 2010 | 27 | 22 | 49 | 1 | 1 | -- |
| Oct 27-30, 2010 (RVs) | 29 | 25 | 32 | -- | , | 13 |
| Oct 13-18, 2010 (RVs) | 28 | 24 | 30 | -- | 1 | 16 |
| Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010 (RVs) | 29 | 26 | 32 | -- | 1 | 13 |
| Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010 | 22 | 18 | 37 | -- | 1 | 21 |
| Jun 16-20, 2010 | 24 | 18 | 30 | -- | * | 27 |
| May 20-23, 2010 | 25 | 18 | 31 | -- | 1 | 25 |
| Mar 11-21, 2010 | 24 | 14 | 29 | -- | 1 | 31 |

[^1]
[^0]:    3 The question regarding whether a vote was more for one's candidate of choice or more against his opponents was not asked of Nader or Barr supporters in 2008, Nader supporters in 2004, or Nader or Buchanan supporters in 2000.

[^1]:    4 In the February 2-7, 2011 survey and before, question read "...do you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with the Tea Party movement...." In October 2010 and earlier, question was asked only of those who had heard or read a lot or a little about the Tea Party. In May 2010 through October 2010, it was described as: "the Tea Party movement that has been involved in campaigns and protests in the U.S. over the past year." In March 2010 it was described as "the Tea Party protests that have taken place in the U.S. over the past year."

